

101 *uncompromising* No 2

MIRACULOUS EFFICACY

OF THE

CORD OF ST. JOSEPH

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M.E.

Séminaire de Québec



GO TO JOSEPH.

(Gen. xli, 55.)

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The examples quoted in this little work are taken from french correspondences published in the most commendable Reviews as : *The Annals of St. Joseph*, *The Messenger of St. Joseph*, &c.

This work is sold in the following places : St. Patrick's Asylum, St. Joseph's Asylum (Cemetery street), Bonsecours' Church and Mr. Sadlier (corner Notre-Dame and St. François-Xavier street.)

With regard to the blessed cord, inquire at the three first places above mentioned.

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Nos. 6, 8 and 10, St. Vincent Street.

1870.

MIRACLES & EVIDENCES

CORD OF ST. JOSEPH



NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT, 15 N. 2ND ST. 1854.

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THE CORD OF ST. JOSEPH.

When God wishes to instil into the heart of his children some new practice of devotion toward the Blessed Virgin or the Saints, he inspires his Holy Church with the idea of recognizing it by her approval, and enriching it with indulgences. And, in order to give greater evidence of His Divine wish he works innumerable wonders in favor of those who faithfully correspond to it. It was in this way that in times past the salutary devotions of the Rosary and Scapular in honor of the Queen of Heaven were established and propagated throughout the world. Even in our own day we see the same manifestation of Divine Will with respect to the Archconfraternity of the Cord of St. Joseph; but lately it received the approbation of the Church and already it is known and adopted in every Catholic country.

Before we undertake to signalize the marvels, that have been worked in favor of this new devotion we think it advantageous to the reader to say a few

words on its origin; they cannot but manifest the inscrutable working of God, who chooses oftentimes, the weakest instruments for his greatest enterprises, his inexhaustible love for man and the infallible protection of St. Joseph over those who profess themselves his votaries.

ORIGIN OF THE CORD.

This devotion originated in Belgium in 1657. In the quaint city of Anvers there lived a certain Sister Elizabeth, an Augustinian nun, whose angelic piety excited the admiration of all that knew her. This holy person was during three years a victim of the most excruciating sufferings. Her case became so desperate that her medical attendants declared her death inevitable; all human resource was therefore exhausted, her only chance of recovery lay in the mercy of God. St. Joseph had always been one of her special protectors and to him she turned his supplications in this moment of need. A happy thought came to her mind. Perhaps, if she had a cord blessed in honor of this Saint, and wore it on her person, she might be alleviated from this dreadful malady. She followed this interior inspiration, and one day soon after, whilst she was in prayer, she felt herself suddenly cured. Her restoration to health was considered by her friends and visitors, as truly miraculous; several persons testified to the veracity of the fact, and a protestant doctor was

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found among those who signed this testimonial. This incident found among the records of the Bollandists was inserted in a little work entitled "The Month of St. Joseph," published in Rome, 1810. This work was publicly read during the month of March 1842 in the Church of St. Nicolas, Verona, and was the means of spreading the knowledge of the above fact. Its recital produced a marked effect upon the inhabitants of that place; sick persons confident in the power of St. Joseph had cords blessed in his honor; graces numerous and extraordinary were obtained, and marvellous cures were repeatedly worked. This singular devotion spread rapidly, thousands of cords were sent from this city to France, Belgium, Germany, to all parts of Italy and even to America and Asia.

The Cord not only possesses the virtue of curing bodily diseases, but it has a special charm against the aggressions of the impure spirit. The Bishop of Verona seeing the vast progress that this devotion was making deemed it necessary to demand its ratification at Rome; after a mature deliberation the Holy Congregation at Rome gave its consent and approved of the prayers attached to the Benediction of the Cord. The Association of the Cord of St. Joseph was then declared *Primaria* and His Holiness Pius IX endowed it with several extraordinary indulgences.

Graces attached to the Cord of St. Joseph.

These special graces are :

- 1^o A special protection of St. Joseph.
- 2^o Purity of Soul.
- 3^o The grace of chastity.
- 4^o Final perseverance.
- 5^o Special assistance from St. Joseph at the hour of death.

Nature of the Cord and the way it Should be worn.

The Cord of St. Joseph should be made either of thread or cotton, having at one end seven knots signifying the joyous, the dolourous and glorious mysteries of this august Patriarch. It is worn as a cincture and should be blessed by a priest having the faculties for so doing.

Prayers attached to the Cord.

To recite every day in honor of St. Joseph seven times the *Glory to be the Father, the Son, etc.*, and afterwards the following prayer :

"O St. Joseph, Father and protector of Virgins most faithful guardian to whom God confided Jesus, innocence itself, and Mary the Virgin of Virgins, I firmly beseech thee through Jesus and Mary those dear pledges of thy heart that being preserved of all taint of impurity in soul or in body,

I may constantly serve Jesus and Mary in spotless charity.

Special Indulgences attached to the Cord of St. Joseph.

1° PLENARY INDULGENCE.

- 1° On the day of admission into the association.
- 2° The 19th of March, or any of the days of the Novena.
- 3° On the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph 3d Sunday after Easter.
- 4° On the Feast of the Espousals of the B. V. Mary and St Joseph.
- 5° On the anniversary of those who have died in the association.
- 6° On Christmas, the Feast of the Circumcision of the Epiphany, Easter, Ascension day, Corpus Christi and Pentecost.
- 7° Also on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of our Lady, the Annunciation Visitation, Purification and Assumption.

CONDITIONS TO GAIN THE ABOVE INDULGENCES :

- 1° To be truly sorry for one's sins. 2° to visit the Church or Chapel of the Association, or any other Church or Chapel. 3° to pray there for peace between christian princes, the extirpation of heresy and the triumph of the Church.
- 8° At the hour of death for all the Associates who truly penitent and having confessed themselves of their sins receive the Holy Viaticum, or being

unable to confess their sins invoke inwardly the Holy name of Jesus.

2° PARTIAL INDULGENCES.

An indulgence of 7 years and seven quadregence for all the associates who will assist with a contrite heart at the exercises of the first wedensday of the month in honor of St Joseph.

2° An indulgence of 80 days, once a day for the associates who will recite with a contrite heart seven times, the Glory be to the Father, etc., in honor of St. Joseph.

3° An indulgence of 100 days for all good works done by the associates with a contrite heart and in the intention of the Association.

All these indulgences either plenary or partial, are applicable to the souls in purgatory.

Spiritual privileges granted to the Associates of the Holy Cord of St. Joseph.

1° The plenary indulgence of the privileged altar is attached to all the masses celebrated for the Associates who have departed this life.

2° Sick people and persons legitimately hindered from making the visit required for the obtaining of the indulgences can substitute another work in its stead with the authorisation of their father confessor.

J. M. J.

EXAMPLES.

As examples have often times make a more vivid and durable impression on the mind than exhortation or the closest reasoning, we have thought it judicious to illustrate the influence of St. Joseph and the Divine concurrence in the propagation of this pious association by selecting a few of the more striking of the many marvels that have been performed in favor of those who have worn this Cord.

The Consolated Mother.

October 1867.

A poor woman, the mother of a family was plunged in the deepest sorrow at seeing her son seriously ill, on account of a large swelling in the interior of his body. He was totally unable to earn his living, he was also afflicted with a natural spot upon his face which disfigured him considerably and oftentimes caused him to be shy before strangers. The doctors tried to perform upon him an operation upon which perhaps life and death depended. But

the mother, of this young man touched by the examples of the power of St. Joseph related in the *Propagateur* chose this good Father as her first doctor and her protector in these sad circumstances. She made a novena in his honor and give his Sacred Cord to her Son who was enrolled in the Archconfraternity; all things succeeded beyond her hopes. This young man perfectly cured holds a good position and fulfil his duties without the least difficulty. Glory and love to St. Joseph.

N***

The Best of Doctors.

Belgium, June 3, 1867.

A lady, one of my acquaintances, some time since was seriously ill, she had consulted the best doctors of her district, but derived no benefit from their art, in a word she was wearing rapidly to the grave. Fortunately I sent her a blessed cord of St. Joseph enjoining her to make a novena to that Saint. She complied with my desire and although she believed in the unbounded goodness and power of this amiable protector, still all that she hoped and anticipated was more than realized. She had not completed her novena when she was delivered from her sickness; her convalescence was astonishingly short and now she enjoys the best of health. This remarkable change was perfected within a few days.

Hoping that these favors may augment the confidence of your readers in St. Joseph.

I remain yours, Ph. D.

A poor workman unexpectedly restored to his family.

Villechenêve (Rhône).

In the month of October I went to see a poor man the head of a small family whose days, it was said, were numbered. He was subject to frequent inflammation of the bowels and diarrhetic attacks; these weakened his constitution to such a degree that he could hardly retained the slightest food upon his stomach. He was worn away to a shadow and a violent cough setting in gave the doctors reason to believe that his lungs were affected. I advised him to have recourse to St. Joseph, begin a novena in his honor and communicate on the last day of the novena. He also received a cord which he placed upon him. He followed my advice to the letter. In suggesting this special devotion to the poor man I did not presume to hope his cure. I thought that St. Joseph might at least protect him at the hour of his death which did not seem far distant. My occupations hindered me from seeing him for some time, but what was my surprise in beholding him on the last day of his novena approach the altar. It is true that he looked more like a ghost than a living creature, but still he had

acquired sufficient strength to perform this sacred act. From that day his health came rapidly back to him and now he is never detained from his work, he assists every evening at the preparatory novena which is performed in the most solemn manner.

Sister St. C***

Pulmonary diseases cured.

Rouen, Oct. 4th, 1867.

Revd. Sir.—It is with pleasure that I assume the pleasant duty of communicating to you the names of several who have personally experienced the kind intercession of our glorious saint. The most extraordinary of the facts that I have to mention is the cure of a young man residing in Ecrinville. For the last two years he has suffered from a pulmonary disease, he was in fact so debilitated that the doctors told him to prepare for death. Not losing confidence in the power of heaven he made a novena to St. Joseph and this completed began a second one towards the end of this latter novena he received the blessed cord of St. Joseph. No sooner did he place the sacred charm upon him than he felt himself suddenly cured.

SISTER HELLE of the Providence.

We have at our disposal another fact testifying the great power of St Joseph over this fatal malady.

In the department of Weurthe there lives a man who some time ago fell into consumption ; this fatal malady had reached its last stage and all hopes of life were abandoned. A cord was given to the invalid and three days after during which time a mass was offered up for him, the most alarming symptoms of the disease passed away ; he has recovered his strength gradually and now he is perfectly convalescent.

Heart Disease Cured.

Lyons, March 19th, 1868.

Emily Molardon, aged 27, was obliged to enter the Providence Hospital in the month of March 1866 on account of a violent disease of the heart. She was there confined to her bed during five months ; the palpitation was so strong that it was plainly perceptible outside her bedclothes. The doctor pronounced her case mortal and incurable, he said her heart was the size of his hat. Spells of weakening perspiration ensued which caused her to change her linen six or seven times a day. She was in this deplorable condition about two months, when, one day, she said to me in one of my visits : " My Father, pray St. Joseph that I may obtain some ease from my sufferings and that this perspiration may cease. I have not the presumption to ask to be cured." I advised the poor soul to make a novena in honor of St. Joseph and wear his blessed cord, she willingly conformed to my counsel,

I also gave her a little book upon this miraculous charm which greatly increased her confidence in this great saint. In one of my visits to her she said to me in the most impressive manner: "Father, I am sure that I shall be cured; but I tried to moderate this assurance. The novena was nearing to its end, the eve of its close she warned her assistants that her perspiration would cease on the morrow; but that night her sufferings were uncommonly violent, her linen had to be changed nearly every hour. I gave her the holy communion at 6 A. M., the perspiration left her at 7, and she assisted at mass that was said at the foot of the bed in company with all the inmates of the house. Mass was hardly finished when she exclaimed aloud:

"I am cured! I am cured! The sickness has left me" The next day she arose and went to the work room of community, but she was positively forbidden to do anything, the following day however she resumed her old occupations and followed strictly the rule of the sisters. The doctor said he might have been able to stop the sweating but her body would have swelled to an enormous size; when her miraculous cure happened not the slightest symptom of dilation was perceived in any part of her body. In order to give more weight to the veracity of this statement, we the undersigned declare that we were immediate witnesses of the fact.

JOSEPH PONTENET, ALMONER.
SISTER THERESA, of Borgia. Sup.
SISTER ODILA, Infirmarian.
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A Soul delivered of all its scruples.

Savoy.

There lived in this place a young man who is in his twenty-eight year, and who for the last seven years has not frequented the Sacraments through scruples of conscience. In every other respect he appeared to be a good Catholic. He was advised by his nephew to wear the cord of St. Joseph and become a member of the Arch-confraternity. He did so, and his scruples have left him entirely.

A case of epilepsy cured.

The following communication has been lately received by the director of the Arch-Confraternity of Beauvais.

Aveyron—I feel bound to further you information of a singular cure that was obtained for one of our members through the intercession of St. Joseph. In our district there lives a young man who some time since was smitten with epilepsy. He tried every remedy imaginable, but in vain ; his attacks were frequent often times, several times a week. Having heard of the wonderful efficacy of the Cord St. Joseph this good young man obtained one from his pastor and had nine masses offered up in honor of St. Joseph. During this novena his attacks were

more frequent but on the last day they ceased, he felt a great change within him, and, although it is three months since he obtained this miraculous cord he has not fallen once. Such is the power and goodness of this Saint for those who invoke his aid with confidence.

A young child cured.

Drôme.

For the last four years my child was deprived of the use of his limbs, he was a year old when an unaccountable debility became manifest in his lower members. It had the appearance of paralysis. We have been obliged to keep him continually in a sitting posture. I tried all that I could to benefit his condition, I even went beyond my pecuniary means hoping to do him some good; but this only exasperated my husband seeing that all my endeavors were vain. In this distress I had recourse to a kind lady who had oftentimes before helped me in moments of need. She counseled me to begin a novena and make my child wear the holy Cord of St. Joseph. Three days after the novena was begun on the 19th of March my love rose without any assistance from his chair and went around the room crying: 'I am cured! I am cured! I had left however early in the morning as I had some marketing to do; but what was my surprise and joy when I saw my child run to meet me. Eternal thanks and love to St. Joseph.

Cure of a Serious Illness.

Châlons-sur-Marne.

It is with pleasure that I write you, Reverend Father, the details of a cure obtained by the intercession of St. Joseph in our hospital.

November 10th 1865.

A poor woman, the mother of four small children being afflicted with a disease of a serious nature was placed under our care. As soon as I had an opportunity, I made her wear the blessed medal of St. Joseph and inscribed her name in the books of the Archconfraternity. During two weeks, she vacillated between life and death, the last sacraments were given her and every moment seemed to be her last hour was come. This was also the opinion of the Doctor. One evening I received some Cords of St. Joseph, I happened to show them to her whereupon she earnestly requested to have one. I was but too happy to comply with her demand. This was about 9 P.M., I resolved to pass the night with her, invoking St. Joseph in her aid and I assure you her piety and resignation edified me and were powerful incentives to redouble my prayers in her behalf. St. Joseph heard our supplications : at the break of day, she felt better, and, a few days after, she was able to return to her helpless family, to the great astonishment of the doctors.

Yours truly,

SISTER MARY, Sister of Charity.

A Malignant Fever cured by St. Joseph.

The following happened during the month of August 1867. I was confined to my bed by the most unconquerable of intermittent fevers, the skilled physician that attended me was totally bewildered at the malignant nature of my disease. I was growing worse every day and an extraordinary weakness incapacitated my stomach for the reception of any kind of medicine whatever. My sisters were certain I would not recover and my confessor lost no time to give me the last sacraments; sorrow and desolation were depicted on the faces that surrounded my bed. In this crisis I asked for some cords of St. Joseph which I wound around my two arms, fully confident in the power of this benevolent Saint. I promised to subscribe to his annals and have a special devotion to the decoration of his statues. The kind Saint was deaf to my prayers, and those of my sisters. The fever was without any physical cause, stopped; it was with difficulty that the doctor could be induced to believe the fact. My restoration to health was certainly not due to earthly means since my stomach could not retain any kind of medicine, it can only be attributed to the power and goodness of St. Joseph. Although I have still a twinge of the disease, I am sure that the work so benignly begun will soon be perfected.

Yours sincerely,

SISTER F. A.,
Mother Superior of a Cong. of St. Soseph.

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Another Case of Fever Cured.

Cahors, October 25, 1867.

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A young woman was stuck down with a fever or rather with three different fevers each extremely dangerous, she soon became delirious, and the last rites of the Church were given her. Her mother, distracted with sorrow, came to the writer of this letter and asked me for a cord which she instantly put on her suffering child. As at that moment the patient gave a few indications of lucidity she enjoined her to pray to St. Joseph, the poor girl made a sign of assent but soon after fell into a speechless delerium. Help, however, was near at hand, a few hours had hardly elapsed when a change for the better was observed; the disease from that moment was abated. The physician that had attended her was taken by surprise when informed of the fact. But what was still more astonishing the young woman recovered her health so rapidly that in a week, she felt better than she had been for many a day before.

A Child torn from grasp of Death.

Aveyron, June 13, 1867.

Allow me to communicate to you the details of a cure which I cannot help considering a miracle. In the month of May of the present year a young

a F. A.,
St. Soseph.

child named Irma the only daughter of her parents was attacked with bronchites. This disease did not come alone, it was accompanied with catarrh and typhoid fever. So bad was his state that he was declared incurable. But what human act cannot effect our great Saint can easily perform. At the suggestion of one of my sisters the sick child's family began a novena in honor of St. Joseph. Nine days passed away and no change for the better was perceptible, the tenth day the crises of his sickness was so great that he appeared to be dead. My sister hastened to see the poor child, and found his family plunged in the deepest of affliction; they even were about making preparation for his funeral. "Begin" said she a second Novena to St Joseph; he will surely hear us. At the same time she took the cord which she wore herself and placed it upon the child. At the end of his second Novena the child notwithstanding the contrary prediction of his physician was fully out of danger. Once only during this second Novena did the child undergo as violent a crisis as the first, it was on the day when, by mistake, the family forgot to say the usual prayers of the Novena; Saint Joseph seemed to intimate that a constant prayer was necessary for the obtaining of this cure. At the present moment the child is in perfect health and is the light and happiness of his family who night and morning thank St. Joseph for this marvelous cure.

PAUL VILIER.

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A Young Lady Cured of Inflammation of the Eyes.

Belgium, November 1st, 1867.

To the Revd. Editor of the Annals of St. Joseph :

I know, Reverend Sir, that you feel happy to record all the favors that are worked through the intercession of St. Joseph, and for this reason, I forward you the details of the following cure: "One of the young ladies in our educational establishment was troubled with inflamed eyes; she consulted the doctors, but after many useless attempts they were on the point of informing her that she would never be cured. Fortunately, at the instigation of a friend, she had recourse to St. Joseph, and began a Novena to this Saint; she put on his sacred Cord, and the sisters of the institution also aided her by their fervent prayers. On the second day of the Novena, the inflammation was somewhat abated, on every succeeding day, a sensible change for the better was remarked, and now there only exists the remembrance of what she once suffered."

N***

Sudden Cure of a Skeptic.

Seine Inférieure.

Reverend Sir,—I here communicate to you the agreeable news of the sudden cure worked on the young man whom I recommended to your

VILIER.

prayers in my last letter. This young man professed no religion, he never prayed and was given to utter incredulity in matters of faith. While sick I paid him a visit, and offered him a Cord with the assurance that it would do him some good. He took it smilingly and said : " I will take it, since you say it will cure me." Now the young man, until the moment I gave him the cord, used to fall into frequent fits of complete insensibility, but since then the signs of weakness have left him. His physician said, if ever he would be cured, it would be only in the course of two or three months, he was greatly taken aback upon his next visit to the young man. " What," said he, " you are no longer sick, your weakness is gone. Why, man, you are cured !" The doctor could not account for this sudden change, but the patient's friend knew it was owing to the intercession of St. Joseph, who even succors those that know him not, that one day they may be ranked among his servants.

N***

A Remarkable Conversion.

Beauvais, July, 1867.

An inhabitant of Savoy, who had for many years abandoned his religious duties, fell dangerously ill. The entreaties of his wife, that he might receive the Sacraments were useless ; he hindered her from speaking on the subject. But her confidence was

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not abated. She came to me and obtained a blessed cord, and placed it upon him without his knowledge, making it the tying of a bandage which the doctor had ordered him. He recovered for a while, but fell into his old state of wavering between life and death; however, he began to manifest signs of patience and resignation. In fine he asked for a priest. He received the parish priest with the greatest edification, shedding tears of joy, asking pardon of his wife and children for the scandal he had given them by his irreligious life, and advising them to be filled with the sentiments which then actuated him and shun those which he once followed. He spoke in the same strain to his friends and acquaintances. What surprised him in this sudden change was its unaccountable cause; his wife then thought it was time to reveal her stratagem of love. The declaration filled him with joy and gratitude. He caused his name to be inscribed among the members of the Archconfraternity, he never let a day pass without repeating several times the prayers of the Association. It was in these beautiful sentiments that death came upon him, his almost pulseless hand held an image of his benefactor and his lips repeated the sweet prayer: "St. Joseph, conduct me to Jesus, your adopted Son and my Saviour."

Several Cures Worked by St. Joseph.

We take the following facts from a letter of the venerable P. Priest of St. Frederic: "You kindly requested me to send you an account of the miraculous effects which the Cord of St. Joseph has produced in my parish and its environs since the establishment of the Confraternity. Here are a few hastily taken down but upon whose authenticity you can rely. A poor woman afflicted for the last 4 or 5 years with erysipelas, suffered greatly from its effects especially in winter. She could not leave the house during the whole season. Having heard of the Cord of St. Joseph and of his Confraternity, she obtained the one and entered the other. The very week she put on the cord, her malady left her. Since then she can go out doors in winter without being the least affected.—Another woman was troubled for a long time with a cancer. One day she came crying to me, asking me for some remedy against this fatal disease. I advised her, first to wear with confidence the Cord of St. Joseph; if this failed, I told her I would try something else. She put it on, redoubled her confidence in that great Saint, and since then she told me, she felt herself improving fastly.—A poor man tormented with rheumatism in the small of the back and arms so much so that it was with difficulty he could work; he heard of the efficacy of the Cord of St. Joseph, and believing in the power of this great Saint hastened to procure one immediately. To his great surprise

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he felt better the next day and his pains are leaving him gradually.

These facts and others that I could have cited happened either in St. Frederic's or its vicinity.

Your most devoted servant,

J. B. E. MOORE, Priest.

A Serious Spinal Affection Cured.

Aisne.

We have just had a cure at the least extraordinary, recognized and avowed as such by His Lordship and his five Vicars General who witnessed the fact itself: it was the instantaneous cure of a young man of eighteen, A.... S.... a writer in the office of one of our notaries, who had been suffering during several months from a spinal affection. The injured part extended according to the testimony of the doctor, from 8 to 10 centimetres in length. I anointed him in the evening, and as he wore the blessed Cord of St. Joseph, I publicly advised him to have great confidence in the kind and powerful patron of a good death. It was thought he would never recover. His relations had gathered to assist at his last moments; I withdrew assured that he would not see morning. During eighteen hours his malady assumed a fearful crisis. On the morrow, at six o'clock in the morning, I informed about my patient. Is he dead? No, was the reply; he had

an hour's calm, but the crisis begin a new, he will not recover. I approached his bed. Seeing that I could not give him the holy communion on account of the violence of the attack, could you not, said I, communicate now? Willingly, he replied but make haste, for by and by it shall be impossible. I had the consolation to give him holy communion. In less than a quarter of an hour after, one of his relations came and said to me: "My cousin sends me to make you aware that he is cured. It was indeed true. His pains becoming completely allayed; he rose up from bed and came on the next day to see his Lordship in order to return him thanks. Since then he is very well.

The Workman's health restored.

Corsica.— I am happy to announce that the devotion towards our good father St. Joseph increases from day to day.

The devotion towards the holy cord is not less great. Poor workmen think themselves happy to be able to put on this holy livery. St. Joseph who is above all the stay and Father of the poor wished some months ago to manifest his power in favour of one of these ill fated beings who for fifteen days had been confined to his bed by intense pains which hindered him from making the slightest motion; the sufferings were so great that the

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poor man despaired of ever recovering the use of his limbs. After having vainly exhausted all the remedies of art, his poor wife had recourse to Heaven; she recommended the cure of her husband to the prayers of some pious and devout servants of St. Joseph. Urged on by a divine inspiration she luckily thought of coming and asking us for a blessed cord. We gave it to her with a medal of the archconfraternity enjoining her to inspire confidence in her sick husband. Scarcely did the poor man put on the holy livery when he could not only make use of his paralysed limbs but even resume on the following day, his ordinary rural labours in a village at a considerable distance from Vico.

Deprived of the goods of this earth, this poor woman knew not how to testify her gratitude to St. Joseph, like the poor widow of the Gospel she brought us half a measure of oil beseeching us to use it before the statue of St. Joseph.

Hemorrhage Cured.

Gironde.—I hasten to acquaint you with the cure of my brother for whom I asked you a novena during the last month. Thanks to the powerful protection of St. Joseph, he is quite convalescent. As soon as he took the holy cord, he suddenly ceased vomiting and spitting blood. The doctors who had no longer any hope, were astonished at

this miraculous cure. Glory then and gratitude to St. Joseph. Until the end of my life, I will consecrate myself to the propagation of his sacred devotion.

Relief from one long and violent headache.

Hérault.—In the month of June or July, you advised me to bind my head with a cord of Saint Joseph and recite the prayer of the archconfraternity that I might be relieved from the painful headaches of which I was victim. You will do me a great pleasure if you find it opportune to insert my cure in the "Messenger of St. Joseph." For fifteen years at least I have suffered from violent headaches brought on by a neuralgia which could not be checked in its progress. I bound my head with my blessed cord three or four nights and two days after my pains ceased entirely.

The remarkable cure of a young girl.

To propagate the devotion towards the Cord of St. Joseph the last number of the "Divoto" relates the following fact, taken from a letter written at Vicence.

Three months ago, while visiting the invalids of

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Vicence, I met a young girl aged twenty three years who was at first attacked by an intense military-fever, and afterwards by hysterics. The remedies prescribed by the doctors, had produced no effect and the patient seemed destined to die in a short time. She received with great fervour the Holy Communion and Extreme Unction and felt much better during several days. This calm did not, however, last long; terrible convulsion; returned upon her with renewed force and the unfortunate being, after these violent fits, remained as-if she were dead, so that those in the neighbouring beds forgot their own sufferings to pity the poor young girl. Though she was resigned to suffer and die, I never ceased in my daly visits, to prepare her for this formidable moment. Being obliged to go to Verona, I took occasion to excite her to a lively faith in the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph who, powerful as he is, could certainly cure her if it were profitable to her soul. I inspired her with a great confidence and she promised to wear always the cord that I would bring and to recite the little prayer prescribed for the associates. On the day that preceeded my departure, her fainting-fits recommenced so that she seemed about to expire every moment. I brought her again the Holy Viaticum and recommended her soul to the Lord, but God had permitted everything for the greater glory of St. Joseph. I left on the 21 of October; the young girl was inscribed at St. Nicholas Church in the registers of the Confraternity, on the twenty-fourth; infine, on the third of November, I returned from Vicence and when I went to see her, I found her in good

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health, to my great astonishment and joy. I asked how many days had she been freed for her illness. She replied about ten days. I threw my eyes on the ticket association which was given to me for her and I saw that it was just 10 days since she had been entered at the Church of St. Nicolas of Vicence, on the registers of the Confraternity of the Cord of St. Joseph. Two or three weeks after, I saw her again in order to take exact information because several considerable persons among whom were several priests of great learning, thought it useful to give this fact a publicity that should turn to the glory of the Saint. Then she declared to us that she had been delivered from all her pains on the day she was inscribed although she had still a considerable swelling, principally in the region of the stomach, but all trace of the malady had disappeared when she put around her loins the cord of St. Joseph and went into the chapel to hear Mass and received the bread of angels. Such is the full truth of the fact that I am authorized to relate by the young girl, Anna Zanetti, of Padoua, in order that this being publicly known may turn to the glory of St. Joseph and the edification of his faithful servants.

A Young Child saved by St. Joseph.

We read in the circular of the Director of the Archeconfraternity of Beauvais dated July 28, 1866 the following fact.

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Permit me, dear associates, to advise you in quite a particular manner to provide yourself with the blessed Cord of St. Joseph. The most consoling accounts show us, every day, the marked benevolence of our well-beloved Saint towards that livery. I am happy to give you a proof of it by making mention of a very remarkable cure, obtained in favour of one of our pupils on the 4th of July, 1866.

It was on the day of our first communion. One of our young pupils, nine years and six months old, was confined to his bed during several days without the appearance of any disease. On the 4th, in the morning, he was suddenly attacked by internal convulsions, five violent crises succeeded each other at short intervals. As his state became alarming, a telegraphic despatch was sent to his parents who arrived here in the afternoon. The child received the Cord of St. Joseph. Meanwhile a fresh crisis stronger than the preceding ones, brought the invalid sick child to the edge of the grave. The whole of one side of the body was paralysed, the tongue contracted, the eyes deadened, and reason had disappeared. It was found necessary to give him Extreme-Unction. For two hours the death-rattle was in the child's throat; the prayer for the agonizing was begun. However the pious mother, whose faith surpassed her sorrow, made a vow to St. Joseph, that if he would preserve her son, to place an *ex-voto* in his chapel and to consecrate her child to the priesthood, if such were the will of the Lord. A few instants after, the child recovered. The paralysis disappeared, the fever became abated

and the alarming symptoms vanished. The child was cured, the next morning, he awoke full of life, his countenance blooming with health and he called for nourishment. Through prudence, he was kept some days in the infirmary. No trace of the disease now remains. Glory and thanks to St. Joseph.

Two Extraordinary instances of the Power of St. Joseph.

Diocese of Langres.

A certain person who was attacked by a horrible cancer in the face, has been cured after having taken the Cord and made a novena to St. Joseph. His gratitude was equal to his joy in being delivered from that frightful disease which was for him a source of both physical and moral sufferings.

Bas-Rhin.

I also owe the liveliest gratitude to St. Joseph, for I feel his sensible protection since I have been associated to his Archconfraternity, and since I wear his Cord. Before, my life was very sad, my soul continually oppressed by interior pains. In this long spiritual agony, I spent six long years. Since last spring my health became very alarming. Then I felt myself inclined to wear the Cord of St. Joseph which, at my request, you condescended to send me. I girded myself with it, full of confidence and res-

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pect, and a thousand thanks to St. Joseph, for my soul and body are perfectly cured.

Cure attributed to the Cord of St. Joseph.

April 11th 1867.

A young girl, miss Maria B***, employed in a cotton mill, was attacked by a very grievous sickness consisting at the same time in neuralgy of the heart, inflammation of the chest and pleurisy. The physician without yet completely despairing of her life, was very uneasy about the consequences of the malady and it was thought necessary to persuade her to make her confession. The same day the Father Director of the congregation of the children of Mary de Fourvière, of which she was a member, came to see her and advised her to consecrate herself to St. Joseph, to wear his cord, to begin a novena and promise St. Joseph to insert the fact in the "Propagateur" if she would be completely cured: in the meantime he promised himself to assist her in the novena and to say Mass with that intention. The patient was so fatigued that somebody had to tie the cord to her arm. God delayed not to hear these prayers. On the very next day, the physician acknowledged his own surprise at seeing the sudden amelioration which was manifested in the state of his patient; it would not be attributed to the remedies, since as she was unable to

bear anything whatever, no medicine was tried any longer for fear of augmenting her sufferings. But from that day, she was becoming better and and better, however the last day of the novena she did not seem so well as on the preceding ones; she suffered much and especially from a stitch in the side and her cough seemed more obstinate. The physician was begged to return the next morning; he came, but the patient felt the stitch no longer and the cough had disappeared: all this took place during the night, and the doctor, after having sounded her, declared she had no longer any trace of sickness, and there was no longer anything on the lungs; he again testified once more his great surprise at seeing disappear a sickness so dangerous by itself, and thus, immediately without leaving anything after it, though, added he, the right lung was grievously affected.—Glory to St. Joseph.

The Story of a grateful Servant of St. Joseph.

A venerable priest of the province of Namur (Belgium) sends us "the 28 February 1870," the following letter.

More than twenty years ago, I was as it were broken down, at the opening of my career by a very sad sickness: I was attacked at the same time by a congestion of the brain, stomach-pains, violent neuralgia and general weakness of the nervous-system,

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During the first years of my sickness, I was so weak that I could not read one or two lines of any book whatsoever without causing a great headache; often I had not strength enough to say a "Pater" and even till the days that preceded my cure I was still so feeble that I frequently happened not to be able to say a few short prayers morning and evening. With still greater reason I was unable to recite any part of my breviary. Such was my habitual state. It is true that, by an effort of the will, I succeeded sometimes in overcoming, to a certain degree, that impotency, but it was on condition of paying it afterwards by an aggravation of my sickness. I was then reduced to a lamentable state, humanly speaking and I had almost no hope of being delivered from it. I will tell you now, Reverend Father, how I obtained the radical cure of that painful malady.

For some time past I had a special devotion to St. Joseph and that inspired me with the happy thought of subscribing myself to the "Propagateur." I procured then this estimable paper; I eagerly read several numbers and was deeply struck with the many astonishing or miraculous graces obtained in our days by the intercession of this holy Patriarch. I determined immediately to wear this marvelous cord blessed in his honor, and to have recourse to the protection of the holy Spouse of Mary.

I was convinced that nothing less than a miracle could cure me; which miracle I solicited in vain so long from the most Blessed Virgin. The thought of the insuccess of these prayers, did not discourage me. I said to myself: who knows but

Mary has delayed in hearing me in order to leave all the honor to her virginal Spouse !.. Thus full of confidence I respectfully girded myself with the precious cord : I made some promises to this great saint should he hear my prayer, and I began my novena. During the first days, I felt relieved ; on the seventh day, the improvement was more notable and on the ninth, I could go to the end of my breviary without much difficulty. Since then I had the happiness of being able to acquit myself of this obligation so dear to a priest and I recite all my breviary, not only with facility but I can still devote a considerable portion of the day to intellectual occupations.

Seven months ago to-day I obtained this previous favor from St. Joseph ; my health is strengthening every day and I hope that after the next month of March, it shall be more robust even than it ever was before my sickness. I repeat it, I am convinced that this cure is owing to a supernatural cause. What I have just said, shows it already sufficiently. In fact, it was a chronic malady which could not disappear at best but after a long while and by means of an energetic treatment. I had moreover, done all that is humanly possible to cure me. I had undergone during several years painful treatments. I had consulted a good number of excellent physicians ; they were generally of opinion that time alone, with rest and good regime could, to a certain degree, restore me to health. One of them, after making me undergo during a month, in his own house, a very painful treatment, said that

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I was attacked by an incurable malady. In the course of last year, I had again sojourned several months in a capital of Europe, in order to consult for the last time the most renowned physicians who were there. I submitted successively to the prescriptions of three of the most celebrated doctors without being the least relieved.

I will add that the third one, an old professor of the University of France, declared to me after several days of examination, that I should no longer consult any physician, but give to time, rest and good diet, the care of restoring me little by little, if it were possible at all to do so.

It is evident, from what has been seen, that I spared nothing to cure myself. And behold, a few weeks after having consulted these medical celebrities, and finding myself reduced to the sad state of old, without experiencing any amelioration, I had the happy inspiration to gird myself with the Cord of St. Joseph, to make a novena of prayers in his honor, accompanied with some promises, and my sickness disappeared as if it were by enchantment. I say with assurance: St. Joseph cured me! Glory to this Great Saint!

L. J***, PRIEST.

Pious reader, our little work here comes to a close. We hope that we have not written it in vain; and, if it makes you love more the august Spouse of Mary, or feel more confident in his credit and tenderness, our efforts have certainly not been useless. You may have remarked that we have

spoken little of St. Joseph's protection over the soul, we thought this unnecessary, since you have in some time of your life felt within you the gentle influence of this Saint's beneficence. At the feet of this good Saint, we lay this feeble effort of love, praying him to inspire all those who will read it with a love for his fatherly heart and the hearts of Jesus and Mary.



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MEMORARE OF ST. JOSEPH.

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, my amiable protector, St. Joseph, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, and implored thy help was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, and commend myself fervently to thy intercession. Oh! despise not my petitions, O adopted Father of our Redeemer, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

300 days' indulgence (once a day), applicable to the souls in Purgatory. Pius IX,—June 26th, 1863.

INVOCATION TO ST. JOSEPH.

O good St. Joseph, our guide! protect us, protect the Holy Church.

50 days' indulgence, each time. Pius IX,—January 27th, 1863.

EJACULATORY PRAYERS.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart, my mind and my life;

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony;

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I die in peace in your holy company.

300 days' indulgence, each time. Pius VII,—April 28th, 1807. If only one of the above ejaculations is recited, then the same Pius VII granted to the reciter 100 days' indulgence.

**The Efficacious Prayer, or the Prayer of the Cord
of St. Joseph.**

Guardian of virgins and Father, holy Joseph, to whose faithful custody Christ Jesus, very Innocence, and Mary, Virgin of virgins, were committed; I pray and beg of thee by these dear pledges Jesus and Mary, free me from all uncleanness, and make me with spotless mind, pure heart, and chaste body, ever most chastely to serve Jesus and Mary, all the days of my life. Amen.

100 days' indulgence, each time,—Pius IX, 1863.

Approved, Sept. 22nd, 1870.

† IG., *Bishop of Montreal.*



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